

Regional transit plan good for Shelby County

By now, you've undoubtedly heard or read about Indy Connect: Central Indiana's Transportation Initiative. Indy Connect recently unveiled a multi-faceted regional transportation plan and is now seeking public input on the draft plan.

The draft plan includes such things as an expanded bus service with more and quicker service beyond Marion County, cross-city routes and increased frequency; an in-street light rail train on or near Washington Street; and a ground-level commuter rail train that could run from Indianapolis north to Fishers and south to Greenwood with multiple stops in Indianapolis; and expanded roadways and bike and pedestrian paths that connect to bus and train stops. The plan also outlines how these modes of transportation could work together.

Under this plan, residents of Shelby County would benefit from express commuter bus service, as well as a better integrated region-wide system. You can see a detailed map at www.IndyConnect.org/



2/20/10
Shelbyville
News

LINDA
SANDERS

map.htm.

Do you think this will benefit Shelby County? Will it address some of your day-to-day transportation needs? If not, then what else do you want to see?

The answers to these and other questions are exactly the type of feedback we're looking for. While it may not be the perfect plan, those of us who have been advocating for improved transit for years see it as an encouraging development that adds momentum to the progress made in recent years.

We also like the way this plan is taking shape. Driven in part by a private-sector study, the plan is being brought to the public by

three of the region's public transportation and planning agencies — the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), IndyGo and Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA).

You'll find details of the plan at www.IndyConnect.org. We encourage you to visit the Web site and review the document. Then let us know what you think by leaving your comments on the Web site or, even better, attending the public meeting in Shelbyville at 7 p.m. March 9 at the Shelbyville Public Library.

As Shelby County's representative on the CIRTA board, I hope to see you at the meeting.

Please join me in sharing feedback on the draft plan and specific ideas and comments. We need everyone's input in order to create a transit system that best meets the needs of our community and the region.

Sanders is a Shelby County Council member and the Shelby County representative on the board of CIRTA, the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority.